

**WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS**  
**Thursday, September 24, 2015**

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, September 24, 2015 by Tamara Kenworthy at 5:32p.m.

Commission present: Brenda Sedlacek, Diane Boyd, Tamara Kenworthy, Ryan Crane, Rita Luther (arrived at 5:50p.m.), TJ Lechtenberg

Staff present: Director of Parks & Recreation Gary Scott, Superintendent of Recreation Greg Hansen, Parks & Recreation Administrative Secretary Susan Mathews

**On Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

Boyd moved to approve the agenda. Sedlacek seconded. Motion carried.

**On Item 2. Citizen Forum**

No items.

**On Item 3. Approval of Minutes – July 23, 2015 Commission meeting**

Mathews noted that Hammers was not listed as present in the packet copy but that the final copy has been corrected and does show Hammers present.

Crane moved to approve the minutes as amended. Lechtenberg seconded. Motion carried.

**On Item 4. Old Business**

No items.

**New Business**

**On Item 5A. Motion – Recommendation to City Council – Approval of Art on the Campus – Selection Committee Recommendations**

Boyd shared that during the two hour Selection Committee meeting 27 proposals by 11 artists were reviewed. She stated that the quality of work of all artists was sufficient to be included in the initial considerations but that two pieces were ultimately rejected due to potential lack of durability. Boyd added that the final selection is comprised of 13 pieces by eight Iowa artists. Boyd expressed appreciation for staff's assistance in determining placements that would provide diversity with the landscape. Kenworthy inquired how many artists were first-time submissions this year. Scott responded that three of the exhibiting artists will be new for 2016. Boyd shared that allowing regional submissions was an indirect way of assisting local artists launch their regional careers. Boyd also shared that at least one of the pieces will be newly prepared especially for this show. Lechtenberg asked if enough time is being given to artists between the Call for Artists and the deadline for submission. Scott responded that 6-8 weeks should be sufficient time, especially since many of the pieces are already completed. Lechtenberg shared that a friend of his claimed he made a submission the day before the deadline but it was never received. Hansen responded that Allison Ullestad received a call from a woman inquiring about submitting an entry two days after the deadline.

Crane expressed excitement and enthusiasm about the pieces chosen. Sedlacek agreed there will be a great variety. Kenworthy commended the Selection Committee and staff on their hard work.

Sedlacek moved to approve the Selection Committee Recommendations and to recommend the City Council approve the Art on the Campus. Crane seconded. Motion carried.

**On Item 5B. Motion – Recommendation to City Council – Placement of Temporary Art – Holiday Park**

Scott stated that the temporary art installation is a component of a program which would not typically require formal approval but as the first project of its kind approval is being sought as an internal process formality. He added that the information has already been shared with City Council and they will not be taking formal action. Kenworthy shared that she visited with the participants on Saturday and that they seemed to be enjoying the program. Hansen gave an overview of the program schedule and shared that Mayor Gaer stopped by to see the students in action as well. Crane asked how many students had prior experience with 3D modeling. Hansen estimated two students may have had some prior experience. Sedlacek asked what fee the participants paid. Hansen responded that the cost was \$39. Sedlacek also asked if there was any press coverage of the program. Hansen responded that there will be. Hansen shared that the work of art still needs a name and the Mr. Boshart suggested the students name it. Lechtenberg asked if there is any way to light the artwork. Scott responded that there is no electricity at that site but that temporary lighting options could be investigated. Scott added that in the next week a metalworker will grind some sharp edges and signage installation will occur.

Luther moved to approve the Placement of Temporary Art – Holiday Park. Boyd seconded. Motion carried.

**On Item 5C. Motion – Artist Involvement in Grand Prairie Parkway Bridge over the Raccoon River**

Scott showed the location of the proposed bridge and gave an analysis of the topography of the area. He shared that the design of the bridge itself will be somewhat simple and will not have elevated structures above the roadway which limits the ability to make a visual impact. Scott added that the engineers will work to make the bridge more distinctive than the typical interstate bridge but that an artist would not need to be hired for that. Luther inquired about using lighting as an artistic element. Scott responded that there would be street lights and that typically other lighting would be used to light an object or potentially the railing. Scott suggested another option would be to reserve additional right of way space at the gateway to the bridge for future art structures. Sedlacek clarified that the first bridge is being designed now but that it will be quite some time before there is enough traffic to warrant construction of the second bridge. Crane added that it does not appear there will be a large audience at this location in the near term. Kenworthy stated that the timeline is an important consideration in making the greatest impact with the investment.

Sedlacek moved to request grading for future placement of artwork as determined by staff. Lechtenberg seconded. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

**On Item 6A. Communications Committee**

Crane shared that the Committee is working on a design for a WDM Public Arts Advisory Commission logo. He added that with the Valley Junction Art Mart and Farmers Market events complete the Committee will have more time for additional projects.

**On Item 6B. Community Service Committee**

Sedlacek shared that the chosen Community Service project theme is “water” with an emphasis on water quality and conservation which fits well with the City’s ongoing watershed initiative. Scott added that the City/School Campus project has received grant funding and the Public Art’s involvement could

assist with the education and promotion component. Kenworthy noted that of all the projects considered this one aligned best and provided components of awareness, public service and call-to-action.

**On Item 6C. Trail Gateway Art Selection Committee**

Luther stated that she was impressed with Jack Becker. Lechtenberg agreed and said that Becker was great at receiving Committee ideas and directing the conversation. Scott shared that Becker is preparing the RFQ now and has requested staff provide brief histories of West Des Moines, the trails system and the five potential sites.

**Staff Reports**

**On Item 7A. Superintendent of Recreation**

Hansen reminded the Commission that this Saturday is the annual Illumifest event. The Commission is not required to attend but there will be information available for the public about the Commission and about the Art on the Campus exhibit at the Parks & Recreation Information table at the event.

**On Item 7B. Director of Parks and Recreation**

Scott informed the Commission that Councilman Sandager inquired about the \$60,000 Challenge Grant. Scott and Kenworthy met to discuss and Scott will be drafting a letter about why the Commission will not be pursuing that at this time but that in two to three years it may be a better option.

**On Item 8. Other Matters**

Boyd reminded the Commission that now would be a great time to revisit the idea of connecting with the Leadership Academy or the Chamber of Commerce for the annual Art on the Campus reception held in the spring. Scott suggested that the Exhibition Committee meet and discuss those options. Kenworthy shared that she will be participating in a panel discussion at a Public Service Academy event that is sponsored by the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute and the Greater Des Moines Partnership which works to encourage young professionals to engage in public service.

**On Item 9. Receive, File and/or Refer**

A. Motion – Approval of Professional Services Contract – Forecast Public Art

Luther moved to adjourn. Crane seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Mathews  
Parks & Recreation Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:

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Diane Boyd  
Commission Secretary